

Subject: EOI office | New Committee | Voting at February Quarterly Meeting | Emberfest

From: 4wd nsw and act <office@4wdnow.com.au>

Date: 5/12/2025 2:14 PM

To: <delegate.tam4wdclub@gmail.com>



Presidents Report

Well, how did we reach this point? Craig Thomas, after 14 years of dedicated service as our association's President, has decided it's time to pass the reins to someone else. I just happened to be in the room at the time. Craig has faced all seasons while in the role: the tough times, the exciting times, the sad times, and, of course, the triumphant times. Throughout Craig's tenure as President, he has never lost focus or passion, earning the respect of other motoring associations and the 4WD industry. Saying just thank you, Craig, feels underrated, but please rest assured, we genuinely appreciate all you have achieved and will continue to accomplish while still on the committee.

The Annual General Meeting was an emotional day and somewhat overshadowed other changes in the committee. Shane McClymont stepped down as Vice President of Clubs. Shane has done a fantastic job over the years connecting with clubs and bringing their concerns or plans to the attention of the association committee. Shane has advocated for clubs in meetings with land managers and industry and is a strong believer that 4WD driving is a sustainable recreational activity. Although not on the front line, Shane will still have a presence at the Sydney 4WD Adventure Show and is committed to helping when and where needed. On behalf of the Committee and clubs, thank you, Shane and Zac, for everything you have done.

Robert Matysiak has also stepped back from committee duties after what seems like an eternity in various roles within the association and clubs, including positions at the national level and other roles in NSW and ACT, as well as serving as president and delegate for clubs he has been or still is a member of. Robert has been a familiar, welcoming face at COCO (Emberfest) and the Sydney 4WD Adventure Show, roles I hope he continues to enjoy. On behalf of the Committee and clubs,

Robert, thank you. Our association is in a better position thanks to the dedication of committee members like you.

Welcome to our new committee members, John B, John H, Don and Craig. It will be an asset to draw on your skills and attributes as we navigate the challenges and opportunities in the coming year. Last but certainly not least, thank you to our returning committee members. Relying on your depth of experience and knowledge will be crucial in keeping our association moving forward and expanding our capacity to face new challenges with professionalism. I would also like to acknowledge all the kind messages of support I have received in recent days, it is very humbling, thank you.

So, what is keeping me awake at night? I want to find better ways to engage with clubs and ensure that the proactive efforts of the committee members and association representatives—such as regional councils, DTU, proactive clubs/members, and supporters—are not underutilised by not being communicated to our members. This is a two-way process: clubs, through their delegates, attend quarterly meetings and understand what the committee is doing, but in most cases, we, as a committee, receive only patchy information about what clubs are working on or doing, or feedback from club committees on the association's activities. With the committee's approval, a Club Chat session will be added to the quarterly agenda. This will allow for open discussions about the club's thoughts, including wins and failures; as an organisation, we never stop learning, and a less-than-favourable experience by one can be a good lesson for all. I'm sure Tony will be interested in the feedback on our new proposed fee structure from club committees.

Ongoing projects. The proposed Great Koala Park is a complex venture. The possible results could significantly influence other parts of NSW. It is crucial that we direct our energy, and yes, also resources, towards this proposal. The NSW Government is ignoring credible research and pandering to minority groups to gain support. This is a facade driven by politics that has little to do with the genuine benefits for the Koalas.

On a brighter note, our fantastic chappies in the DTU have just organised a sand drive and recovery, DAF instructional day at Stockton Beach. Based on the pictures and feedback from those who attended, our club trainers are better prepared to deliver real-world training to members. The DTU team donate their time and skills; we are lucky to have such dedication in our organisation.

For those who may have missed the announcement of the February Quarterly location, the meeting will be in Goulburn (I think the Goulburn RSL, but don't hold me to that part). I'm sure our wonderful office staff will set me straight.

If you are exploring during the upcoming festive season, take plenty of breaks and the occasional deep breath as you navigate holiday traffic, and, most of all, enjoy time with family and friends. Make sure you have a Plan B, install the Bushfire

survival app on your mobile device and stay safe.

On behalf of the Committee, Merry Christmas to members and families, and cheers to a wonderful New Year.

Cheers

Lee Dunstan

President



Spoken at the Quarterly meeting In November.

Craig is stepping down.

I don't think anyone would have imagined 14 years ago that we would be here today, congratulating Craig on his efforts and leadership during his time as President of our association.

The volunteer organisation's ability to preserve history is limited, as we often serve as short-term office bearers who take on multiple roles within our committees during our time with our clubs, where history gradually turns into stories with forgotten names and probable causes dismissed. Nonetheless, history shapes our future, and tough lessons are learned; passing on this teaching is even more challenging, and the cost is high, sometimes involving the sacrifice of friendships.

Rewind to Adventure Show 1. This event pushed our association to the limit; our finances were completely drained, and our future, in short, was uncertain. A recovery plan was devised; however, the lack of transparency and resistance to change required a shift. Craig and Tony stepped up and took charge, and they have continued to grow our association. Over the years, many challenges have emerged, each consuming energy, but your passion has remained resilient. Craig, you are the President we needed—strong leadership, passion, courage, and compassion. You haven't always been right, and none of us are, but you are the first to acknowledge and own your decisions. You have, and will continue to, put the NSW & ACT Association first.

For me, you have been a guiding hand, a good listener, my second sounding board (after it passes the Nicole test), an inspiration, sometimes frustrating, disorganised, but always supportive—and to me, a true friend. I know this is not the end of your involvement with our Association, and in some ways, new beginnings are on the horizon. On behalf of past, present, and future members, thank you for being our President; more importantly, thank you for being a friend.

Lee Dunstan



Executive Committee for 2026

President - Lee Dunstan, Black Diamond

VP Clubs - John Hurcum, Jackaroo

VP Lands - John Barnsley, Blue Mountains

Secretary - Rollanda Rosenstrauss, Era

Treasurer - Tony Ellery, Blue Mountains

Executive Members

Brian Bird - Camping With Families

Anthony Timmins - Bungaribee

Don Lindsay - Macarthur

Craig Thomas - Era

David Wellham

Returning Officer

🔥 **EMBERFEST – MAY 15,16 & 17, 2025** 🔥
Winter in Australia has never looked so good!

Join us for a fun-filled weekend packed with food, games, and great company.

Friday Night (15 May)

- Games Night – kick off the weekend with fun and laughter

Saturday (16 May)

- Day trips
- Local markets
- Camp Oven Cook-Off
- 5:00pm – Nibbles
- Trivia Night with great prizes up for grabs

Sunday Morning (17th)

- Members Meeting
- Tea & coffee provided
- Lucky door prize
- Breakfast & lunch included

Don't miss this warm and wonderful winter celebration. More details coming soon – save the date!

Tickets available in the new year.

Mudgee Showground, Mudgee NSW

The name Camp Oven Cook Off has been retired.

The cook off is such a small part of the weekend that COCO didn't fit the event. I hope you like the change.



Maggie Thomas



Quarterly Meeting Saturday Feb 21 2026

10am - 2pm Goulburn Soldiers Club 15-17 Market Street, Goulburn NSW.

Please note that this club will not allow entry until 10am. Please wait at the main entrance until that time.

The Committee has been given access prior to be able to set up but they wont allow others to enter early.

Light lunch provided

This is a voting meeting, please see Treasurers Report below



Treasurer's Report – Fee Structure for FY 2026/27

Motion: Proposed Fee change to take effect from FY 2026/27 (fees due 01/07/2026) overall increase to \$19 per member capped at 120, plus Insurance Component (all members) to \$5.00

Reasoning: I am occasionally asked at quarterly meetings just how 'financial' we are as an organisation. Currently we have quite sufficient funds to operate (barring unforeseen circumstances) for many years. However, like every person or entity in these times, we are seeing increasing costs. We cut where we can, and manage funds quite well, but there is a case to review the fees we charge.

For the 2026/27 year a revised fee structure will come into effect, that 'caps' (at 120) the number of members used to calculate the Affiliation Fee. That is, there is no cap for the Insurance Component, as that cost is influenced by the insurance premium itself. The impact of this change will see a reduction in revenue (based on this year's number of 3,199) of almost \$6,250, calculated as: 353 (number of members from 7 clubs that are above the 120 member threshold) X \$17.70 (the Affiliation Fee \$15.70 plus \$2.00 Marketing Levy)

Our Insurance component is also under pressure, with the current \$4.30 now not covering the annual premium. We collected: 3,199 x \$4.30 = \$13,755.70 Actual premium cost for 2025/26: \$15,568.98 (or \$4.86 per member). This is a shortfall of over \$1,800 absorbed by the Association. Note we are expecting an increase in P/L insurance, as this is trending up in the industry. In total we collected \$70,378 for 2024/25 affiliations. In the 'new' scenario, that would look like \$64,130. Here is also something to consider – that we took unprecedented action during Covid (only charging half fees one year) to support our Clubs; also that we refunded the National Fee when we first departed from National in 2019/20. In fact, we've managed to keep fees very consistent for the last five years, when most costs have risen significantly. Something we are also aware of is that many clubs have increased fees over the past few years, some as much as \$10 in one jump. Let's have a look at the historical data (as far back as I could go):

Fin Year	State Fee	Total Cost per Member	Notes
2014/15	\$15.70	\$ 19.00	Includes \$3.30 to National, insurance paid separately by club direct to TCIS under Nat arrangement (was almost \$6 per member)
2015/16	\$15.70	\$ 19.00	Includes \$3.30 to National, insurance paid separately by club direct to TCIS under Nat arrangement (was almost \$6 per member)
2016/17	\$15.70	\$ 19.00	Includes \$3.30 to National, insurance paid separately by club direct to TCIS under Nat arrangement (was almost \$6 per member)
2017/18	\$15.70	\$ 23.70	Includes \$3.30 to National, and \$4.70 insurance changed to cheaper better policy under state control
2018/19	\$15.70	\$ 23.70	Includes \$3.30 to National, and \$4.70 insurance changed to cheaper better policy under state control
2019/20	\$15.70	\$ 20.40	* Clubs paid \$23.70, but we refunded the Nat Fee when we left National Assoc due to dispute
2020/21	\$15.70	\$ 11.85	Half fee (\$7.85) to assist clubs through COVID; plus Ins \$4.00 and rejoined National for reduced fee \$2.00
2021/22	\$15.70	\$ 21.70	plus \$4.00 ins and \$2.00 National
2022/23	\$15.70	\$ 21.70	plus \$4.00 ins and \$2.00 National
2023/24	\$15.70	\$ 22.00	plus \$4.30 ins and \$2.00 National
2024/25	\$15.70	\$ 22.00	Plus \$4.30 Ins. We voted to leave National Assn at AGM Nov 2023 - delegates voted we retain the \$2.00 for marketing use.
2025/26	\$15.70	\$ 22.00	Plus \$4.30 Ins. We voted to leave National Assn at AGM Nov 2023 - delegates voted we retain the \$2.00 for marketing use.

The point I am heading to here is proposing a simplification and increase in fees for 2026/27 as follows:

Affiliation Fee: \$19.00 Insurance Component: \$5.00 Total per Member: \$24.00

Affiliation Fee: This would be an increase of \$2.00 per member (less than 10%) of the current fee structure. It would also abolish the Marketing Levy, which is paid into and sourced from our general funds anyway. Examples of this are things like brochures, banners, and sponsoring events like the 'AirUp' day.

Insurance Component: The 'rounding up' to \$5.00 would largely close the current gap. Any reasonable shortfall would be covered as per current practice. I propose these changes be approved by the Delegates at no later than the February Quarterly meeting. It is therefore imperative that you communicate with your Club committees, and ensure they read the invoices carefully to make the correct payments.

Thank you

Tony Ellery Treasurer 15 November 2025



I have been running the office for over 8 years now and I have been using my personal phone to do that.

It's time for the Association to have its own phone number so that hand over will be easier when the time comes.

The new number is 0493 321 577.

Please add the number to your phone and contact sheets.

Also as there has been so many changes to the committee they have all moved to .com.au addresses, so please remember to email this new extension.

That is still being worked on and will take a few weeks to migrate everything over and set up all the new committee members. If you have any issues in the mean time you can always contact me office@4wdnow.com.au.

Office will close on December 19th at midday and reopen on January 12th 2026. As always if you need anything urgently you can call me on the number above.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Maggie Thomas



Planning

Open space

Public open space is the infrastructure that is essential for our communities.

Open space is the foundation of liveable communities. Public open space is infrastructure that is essential for communities and creating great places to live.

It encompasses parks, natural areas and linkages, waterways and foreshores, informal parklands, sports grounds and courts, play spaces, historical sites, and recreation trails for walking and cycling. It is found in every part of NSW — from remote regional towns to new greenfield suburbs, and long-established urban centres. Well-connected open space plays a crucial ecological, economic, social and cultural role in our lives.

The department is delivering a range of open space projects across NSW, including new and improved parks across Greater Sydney through the Parks for People program, places to swim and get adventurous in nature supported by the Open Spaces Program, as well as over 140 inclusive play spaces influenced by the Everyone Can Play program, delivered in partnership with councils.

People with access to public open space are healthier and happier than those without. For many people living without access to a backyard, the open spaces in our communities are vital to maintain physical and mental health.

Public Open Space Strategy for NSW

2025 Greater Sydney Outdoor Study

Do the survey and find out more [HERE](#)

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT INC | Office Function tender for period from 1 July 2026.

Review, Compliance and Governance Panel (RCGP) | rcgp@4wdnow.com

The Review, Compliance and Governance Panel (RCGP) was created in May 2021 to oversight the third-party provided Office Function of the association. The panel is a sub-committee and reports to the Association Committee and updates members at Quarterly meetings and via newsletters. The panel has three club delegates and two

Association Committee members with the Chair being one of the delegates.

The panel can be contacted via the email address rcgp@4wdnow.com

Please contact the panel if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, complaints, compliments or can offer any assistance.

The Office Function will have been performed by Clever for over 5 years when the current contract expires on 30 June 2026. The Association committee and RCGP will tender the Office Function for the period from 1 July 2026.

Expressions of Interest

The RCGP is inviting organisations and people from within our membership to tender for the office function. It is important to note that the Association will only offer the tender to organisations and people that can perform this role as a contractor – the Association will not be taking on an employee for this role.

If you are interested to tender for this contractor role, please download the attached 'Expression of Interest' form. This form has details including information and requirements for organisations and people that wish to receive the tender document. The panel will use the form to evaluate the responses and form a short list to issue the tender document. Please forward completed forms to RCGP via email by 7 February 2026.

Please contact the panel via email if you have any questions.

Download the EOI document [HERE](#)

The Lake Innes Nature Reserve, Innes Ruins Historic Site and Lake Innes State Conservation Area

Draft Plan of Management is on public exhibition.

The draft plan may be viewed at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say or NPWS Port Macquarie Office, 22 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie.

You are invited to provide feedback on the draft plan. Submissions on the draft plan must be lodged before 5pm on **18 February 2026**. Submissions must be in written form and lodged via:

- the online form at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say
- email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au
- mail to Manager, NPWS Planning and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Any personal information you provide will be protected. Further information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about-us/privacy-and-security.

If you have any questions, please contact me at npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Budderoo and Macquarie Pass National Parks, Barren Grounds and Robertson nature reserves and Macquarie Pass State Conservation Area

Draft plan of management is on public exhibition from **14 November 2025 to 9 February 2026**.

With visitor numbers growing and improved transport corridors, many park visitors are seeking out experiences beyond existing visitor infrastructure. This is adversely impacting biodiversity values, threatening Aboriginal heritage values, and creating safety issues. The draft plan of management addresses this changing visitation pattern and its impacts.

The draft plan of management is supported by draft precinct plans that provide additional information on proposals at 3 key visitor destinations in the park, namely Carrington Falls, Minnamurra Rainforest and Macquarie Pass.

The draft plan of management and draft precinct plans are available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say or at the Minnamurra Rainforest centre, 345 Minnamurra Falls Road, Jamberoo, or at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, 1301 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls.

You are invited to provide feedback on the draft plans. Submissions must be lodged before 5pm on **Monday 9 February 2026**. Submissions must be in written form and lodged via:

- the online form at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say
- email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au
- mail to Manager, NPWS Planning and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Any personal information you provide will be protected. Further information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about-us/privacy-and-security.

If you have any questions, please contact me at npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au.



Barry Hayden

Manager Planning & Assessment

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....



Red Cross First Aid Course

I have had a few inquiries about another Sydney Course for members.

We need 20 participants to run the course.

If you or your club are interested please email office@4wdnow.com

Need a ZOOM meeting?

Do you need a zoom meeting for your club?

You are welcome to use the Association account.

Please email Maggie with date, start time and duration.

office@4wdnow.com

**4WD NSW & ACT and its Driver Training Unit
proudly supported by**



4X4 ACCESSORIES

This newsletter is written using information provided by relevant parties.

If I write something that mentions "me or I" and there is no signature after it then it is a message from me.

If you would like something to be added on behalf of your club please email office@4wdnow.com.

Anything can be included as long as it's club based and for the benefit of clubs.

The newsletter is monthly (about the first of each month) but we can do an extra "special" if there is something that is important that we missed.

- Maggie Thomas.

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